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(54) Title: PROCESSING AQUEOUS TITANIUM CHLORIDE SOLUTIONS TO ULTRAFINE TITANIUM DIOXIDE

(57) Abstract: A hydrometallurgical process is provided for producing ultrafine or nano-sized titanium dioxide containing solutions, particularly titanium chloride solutions. The process is conducted by total evaporation of the solution, above the boiling point of the solution and below the temperature where there is significant crystal growth. Chemical control additives may be added to control particle size. Nano-sized elemental particles are formed after calcination. The titanium dioxide can be either anatase or rutile. Following calcination, the titanium dioxide is milled to liberate the elemental particles and provide a high quality nano-sized TiO<sub>2</sub> with a narrow particle size distribution.



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PCT/US 00/16355 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
1PC 7 C01623/053 C01B13/34 C09C1/36 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 COIG COIB CO9C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal, CHEM ABS Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category \* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ GB 2 166 126 A (MITSUBISHI MINING & CEMENT 1-3.CO) 30 April 1986 (1986-04-30) 5-11. 15-19. 21-27, 31,32 the whole document GB 481 892 A (TITAN COMPANY INC.) Υ 1-3, 18 March 1938 (1938-03-18) 5-11. 15-19, 21-27, 31,32 page 2, line 47 - line 90 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* tater document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the investige. "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cated to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu- O° document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 5 April 2001 17/04/2001 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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